

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A side lock apparatus for an opening and closing member ~~members~~ comprising:

a support member fixed to a ~~the~~ opening and closing member so that the opening and closing member can be opened and closed;

left and right latches movably held on the opening and closing member;

a spring unit comprising a spring means; and

a link lever, ~~wherein~~:

wherein ~~each of~~ the left and right latches ~~being~~ are urged by a pressure of a ~~a~~ the spring means toward a lock hole formed in the support member, a free end portion of ~~each of~~ the latches being moved back from the lock hole of the support member against the spring means by an operation of an operating handle[[:]] ,

wherein the left and right latches are operatively connected together via the link lever supported rotatably via a shaft on the opening and closing member[[:]] ,

wherein the operating handle is ~~being~~ provided with an operating portion engageable with ~~the~~ a relative latch of said left and right latches; and

wherein ~~at least one latch~~ said left and right latches are ~~being~~ provided with ~~not smaller than~~ two contact surfaces engageable with ~~the~~ a respective operating portion of the operating handle.

2. (Currently Amended) A side lock apparatus for opening and closing members according to Claim 1, wherein the opening and closing member is provided with a retainer member for retaining one latch movably, the retainer member being detachable with respect

to the opening and closing member and supporting the operating handle so that the operating handle can be turned or pressed.

3. (Currently Amended) A side lock apparatus for opening and closing members according to Claim 1, wherein said left and right latches are ~~each of the latches is~~ provided with a projection-carrying elastic member, the link lever being provided with recesses engageable with the projection, the thickness of the link lever being smaller than that of the latch.

4. (Currently Amended) A side lock apparatus for opening and closing members according to Claim 1, wherein the left and right latches ~~have~~ comprise shaft portions at their respective rear ends, and holes through which the shaft portions of opposite latches are inserted, each of the holes having a brake means, one shaft portion being provided with a the spring means.

5. (Currently Amended) A side lock apparatus for opening and closing members according to Claim 2, wherein ~~each latch has~~ said left and right latches comprise an elastic claw for tentatively fixing the retainer member.

6. (New) A side lock apparatus for an opening and closing member comprising:  
left and right latches movably held on the opening and closing member;  
a spring means; and  
a link lever,

wherein the left and right latches are urged by a pressure of the spring means toward a lock hole formed in a support member that is fixed to the opening and closing member, a free end portion of the latches being moved back from the lock hole of the support member against the spring means by an operation of an operating handle,

wherein the left and right latches are operatively connected together via the link lever supported rotatably via a shaft on the opening and closing member,

wherein the operating handle is provided with an operating portion engageable with a relative latch of said left and right latches; and

wherein said left and right latches being provided with two contact surfaces engageable with a respective operating portion of the operating handle.

7. (New) A side lock apparatus for an opening and closing member comprising:

a left latch and a right latch movably held on the opening and closing member, the left latch and the right latch comprising two contact surfaces,

wherein the left latch and the right latch are urged by a spring, a free end portion of the left latch and the right latch being moved against the spring by an operation of respective operating handles, and

wherein the operating handles are provided with an operating portion engageable with a respective latch of the left latch and the right latch, the operating portion of the operating handle engaging a respective contact surface of the left latch and the right latch depending on an operating handle that is used.